



Casa Malca

Tulum, Mexico

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8/10

Telegraph expert rating

" Reported to be drug baron Pablo Escobar's former hideaway, now a cool, luxurious, beachfront boutique hotel filled with intriguing artworks from Colombian owner/New York art dealer Lio Malca's personal collection. It's a Caribbean getaway where they do things in their own distinct and distinctly arty style. "

Check availability

Rooms from

£407

per night

CHECK-IN

Fri 07 Jan

CHECK-OUT

Sat 08 Jan

OCCUPANCY

1 room, 2 adults, 0 children

Check availability

Rates provided by Booking.com

Telegraph Review

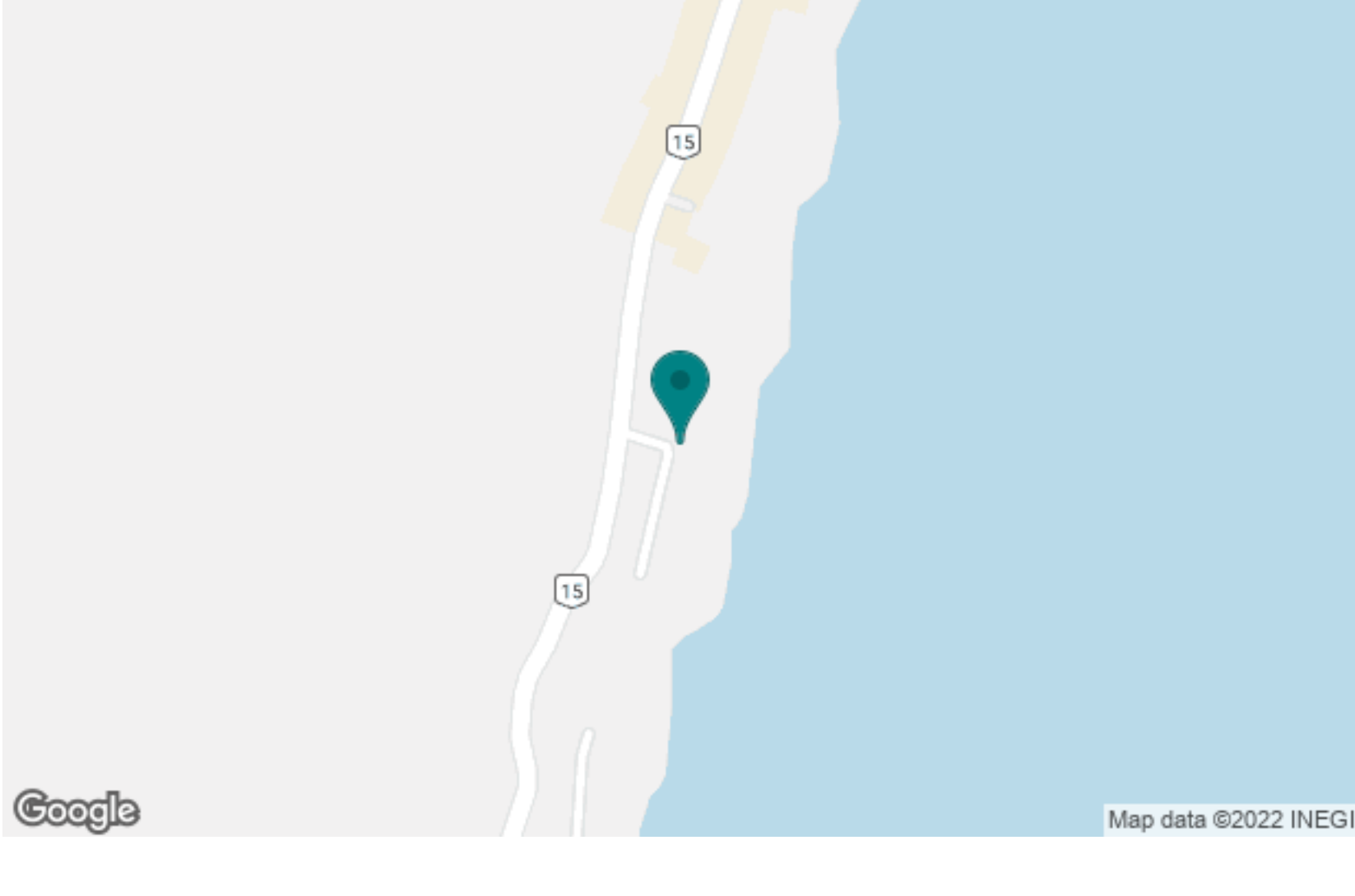


By Graeme Green, TRAVEL WRITER

8/10

Location

The hotel's on the beach, the Caribbean ocean just 25 yards away. Positioned at the quiet end of Tulum's beachfront road, it's next to the protected Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve. It's a 25-minute drive to downtown Tulum, though you're likely to spend more time around the beachfront's little boutiques, bars and restaurants, just a three-minute bike ride or one-minute drive away.

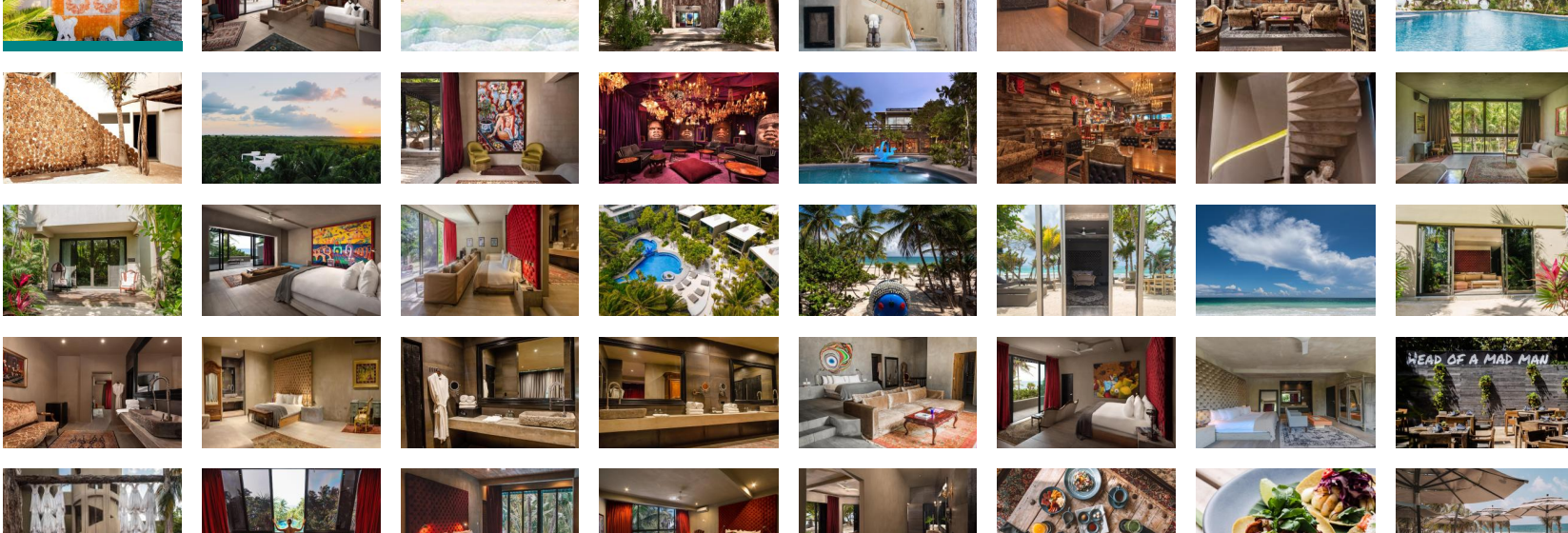
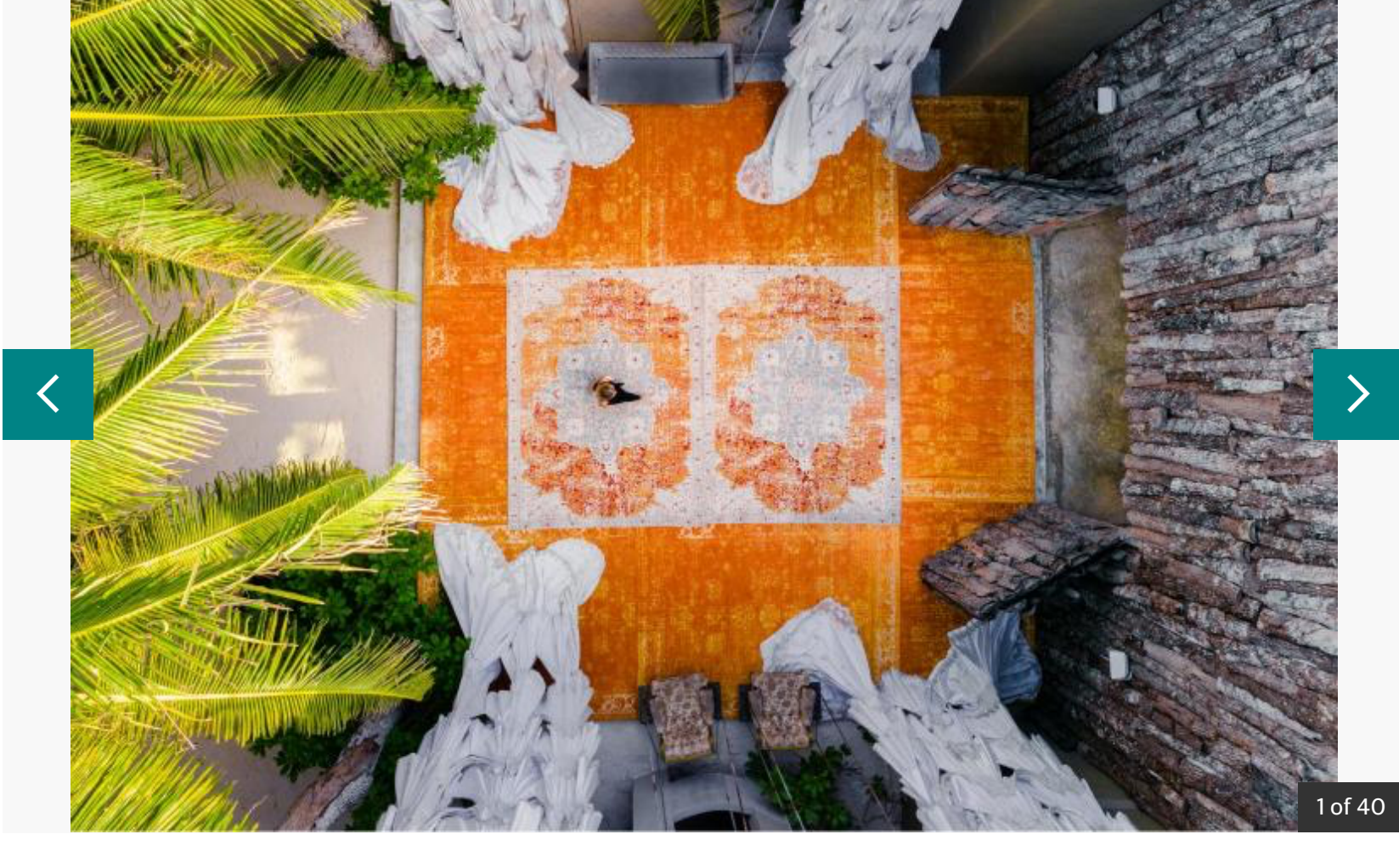


9/10

Style and Character

A decidedly individual artistic approach, with original artworks from Lio Malca's collection and personally selected local arts and crafts, make Casa Malca stand out from Tulum's beach hotels. Massive white, sequined curtains hang on either side of a wooden door at the entrance, with wooden statues of horses with human faces on either side.

Inside, there's a Mickey Mouse-type sculpture by American artist KAWS, a bar decorated with a Keith Haring-inspired print design and an old dentist's chair in a hallway, plus a restaurant decorated with slightly creepy baby dolls. The atmosphere, though, is laidback, with loungers and colourful Colombian-style hammocks around the pool.



See more images at [Booking.com](#)

6/10

Service and Facilities

Perhaps down to curious travellers wanting to check out Escobar's old haunt, the 'welcome' at the entry gate is frosty and suspicious. Service inside is hit and miss, sometimes welcoming and helpful, other times aloof or sloppy. Breakfast orders were slow to arrive or sometimes forgotten. The hotel has a bar, restaurant, business centre and two pools, one above ground, another in a blue underground cavern. There's also a rooftop made for parties. There's no gym or spa, though the hotel does have a massage service available by request, as well as yoga and paddleboarding.

- ✔️ Parking

✔️ Bar

✔️ Wi-Fi
- ✔️ Restaurant

✔️ Pool

✔️ Beach

7/10

Rooms

Villas are big and box-like, with lots of polished grey concrete inside and one-way glass fronts. Smart and spacious, each has a comfy lounging area, and contains unique artworks or local crafts and furnishings collected by Malca on visits to Mexico. The industrial feel doesn't really match the sunny beachfront location, and the non ocean-facing Garden View suites, set back from the front, can feel gloomy. Bathrooms are roomy, with rainshowers and a long corridor with a big mirror and an earthy stone sink.

7/10

Food and Drink

Breakfast, lunch and dinner all take place in Philosophy restaurant, with a cool breeze coming in off the ocean. Breakfast is fresh fruit plates, pastries, omelettes and Mexican dishes, such as Divorciados, though several dishes were served cold. The dinner menu features beachfront comfort food, heavy on seafood, from pizzas to a trio of ceviches with tequila and mezcal. A sweet taco, with popcorn, avocado, red pepper, chocolate and honey, was tasty and artfully plated.

8/10

Value for Money

Double rooms from \$655 (£469) in low season and from \$720 (£515) in high. Breakfast included. Free Wi-Fi. Beachfront Master Suites in the main house are brighter than the villas, painted white, and both more spacious and less dim than the villas, costing from \$952 (£683) in low season; and from \$1,047 (£750) in high. It's worth the extra money to be in an ocean-facing suite.

Access for guests with disabilities?

Not suitable.

Family-Friendly?

Connecting rooms are available. There's a charge of \$120 (£87) for an extra bed in the room.

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casamalca.com



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Telegraph expert rating

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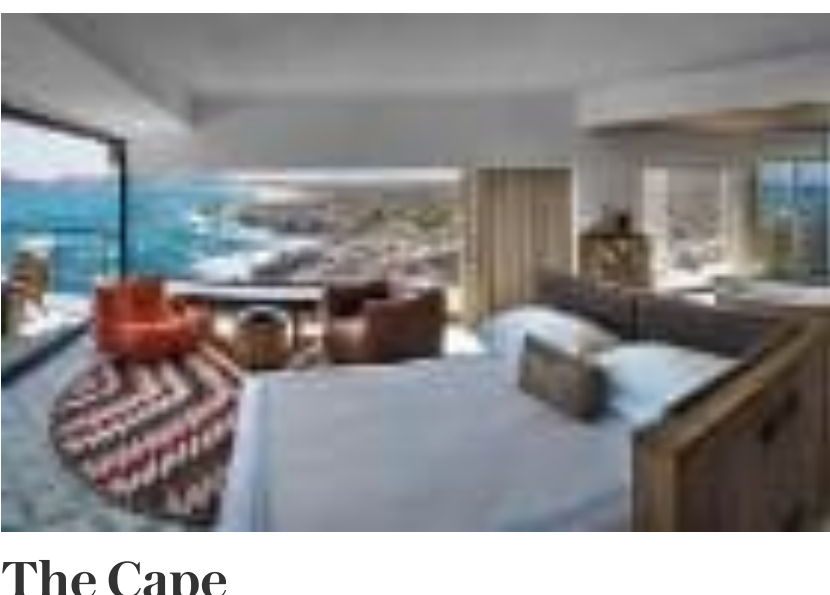
From

£173

per night

Check availability

Rates provided by Booking.com



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9/10

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£442

per night

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From

£167

per night

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